

**City of Stevens Point  
Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners  
March 10, 2025 - 12:00 PM**

**Stevens Point Public Utilities  
300 Bliss Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

**OR  
Zoom Teleconferencing**

**Meeting ID: 820 26885705**

**By Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82026885705>**

**By Phone: (303) 715-8592**

## **MINUTES**

**Discussion and Possible Action on:**

**1. Roll Call.**

**PRESENT:** Paul Adamski, Carl Rasmussen, Mae Nachman and Ray Schmidt

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Anna Haines

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joel Lemke, Jennifer Schmeiser, Chris Lefebvre, Jason Draheim, Ald. Shuda and Jaime Zdroik

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** made by Carl Rasmussen, seconded by Ray Schmidt to approve the February 11, 2025 meeting minutes of the Board of Water & Sewerage Commission.

***Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.***

**3. Approval of Department Claims**

**Motion** made by Mae Nachman, seconded by Carl Rasmussen to approve the department claims for the month of February 2025 as audited and read.

***Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.***

**4. Water Supply and Distribution Reports - *Eric Southworth***

Ray asked if Joel knew why pumpage was so much lower this year verses last year in February. Joel stated the pumpage this February is more in line with the previous years and last year was probably an exception.

**5. Sewage Treatment Operations Report - *Chris Lefebvre***

Chris stated all permit limits were met for the month of February. There was a spike on February 1 in our final effluent discharge and our raw influent, so something was dumped, and the plant was upset for the majority of the month. Everything is back to normal now. They did some investigating, trying to find the source of the high loading on that day, but were unable to find out who or what did it.

Our UV disinfection project started today and is expected to be completed by May 1 and operational before we need to start disinfecting for the summer months.

**6. Sewer credit for 1430 Torun Road -Joel Lemke**

Joel showed the Commissioners the graph where it clearly showed when the leak started and when it was repaired. The repair was underground and did not go into the sanitary sewer for treatment. Since the leak was repaired and didn't have to be treated by the wastewater treatment plant it is eligible for a sewer credit.

The amount of water leaked was calculated to be 312,976 cubic feet.

**Motion** made by Ray Schmidt, seconded by Carl Rasmussen to approve the sewer credit for 1430 Torun Road for the amount of \$13,364.08.

***Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.***

**7. Construction and Maintenance Report - Shane Kohnen**

The Commission reviewed the Construction and Maintenance Report.

**8. Update on Park Ridge water infrastructure and associated Chapter 13 ordinance amendment - Joel Lemke**

Joel explained what was discussed at the Plan Commission starting by providing background information regarding the agreements between the City of Stevens Point and the Village of Park Ridge.

We have been in a wastewater treatment agreement with them since 1956 amended in 1993 to add a water meter charge. We have had a fire hydrant agreement since 2015. The Village ceased their volunteer fire department and then entered into a Public Fire Protection Agreement with the City's Fire Department which expires in about two months. The Village is looking to add more fire hydrants inside the Village limits. The two newest subdivisions in the Village are Odessa Ct. and Angelo Ct. For these subdivisions, village ordinances were adopted that read they own the infrastructure, and it is theirs to repair, but it will be operated according to our governing policies.

Joel went over Ordinance Chapter 13 and showed the Commission on the map what parcels are included in that currently. He also explained what they are proposing to amend in order for more areas in the Village to have water and more fire hydrants installed. This would be done in two phases. Joel showed them the proposed Phase 1 water main and what would be installed in later phases.

There are two options to choose from. Option 1 is to not allow extension of water main for any purpose; Option 2 is to allow extension of the water main with some or all of the following: Chapter 13 amendment-change water service area to add allowable service only to the proposed main extension area; all infrastructure (roads and mains) be built to City spec; no more infrastructure (beyond Phase 1) until a Consolidation Agreement is in place; Trigger mechanism for the connection to water would be non-conforming wells, no construction of new wells and all wells adjacent to new main within a 10-year period.

Joel explained that a consolidation agreement is one of the tools to use because a village and a city don't have annexation authority over each other.

The Plan Commission voted to recommend an amendment to Chapter 13 to allow extension of water mains in the Village of Park Ridge subject to the following conditions: All infrastructure shall be built to City specification; no more infrastructure beyond Phase 1 until a consolidation agreement is in place; residents adjacent to the water main that have non-conforming wells must connect immediately; no new wells may be constructed on properties adjacent to the water main; all properties adjacent to the proposed main shall connect within a 10-year period.

Paul questioned when the consolidation agreement would go into effect. Joel said a term hasn't been discussed yet.

Paul stated to his knowledge the Village's mill rate per thousand is \$16.72 and the City's is \$25.14 and he doesn't feel that is close. Joel explained that they are due for a revaluation because they are at a 65% ratio. It is to his understanding that once this is done they will be close to our mill rate. The Village has two rather large grants to cover the installation of infrastructure for both phases. They also have a lot of road work to do as well and a little bit of borrowing for that reason could increase their levy pretty quickly. So we just want to take what action we can now to ensure they are building their infrastructure to City standards. So, if, in the future, the Village became part of the City, the City would not take on that liability.

Paul stated that even though Joel feels this would be good for the Water & Sewerage Commission, Paul is concerned about the difference in taxes. Paul feels the City of Stevens Point residents would essentially be subsidizing the Village of Park Ridge. That said, he listened to Joel's explanation of how the tax rates would be getting closer, but doesn't understand why we just don't make this consolidation agreement now instead of waiting.

Joel stated the Village has grant money to be able to install the infrastructure. The Village is using the City's fire department, and they would like more hydrants installed to fight fires. It is really poor infrastructure planning to just install water main at over \$100 a foot and just use it for hydrants and not domestic water. If that is the case, from a utility perspective, we shouldn't allow this because we can't connect it to our system in multiple places without it being our infrastructure. The fire department, if they are going to continue to have a long-term relationship, would like more hydrants installed in the Village. Joel stated those mains, operationally, wouldn't be of interest to us without any customers connected to them. Having just hydrants on the water mains won't help with the cost of replacing the infrastructure in the years to come. Therefore, having trigger mechanisms to get customers connected helps support the financial viability of that. Whereas just using it for fire protection doesn't. Which is why option 1 is no water main but option 2 brings clarity to this. Since they already have sewer throughout the village, the slow addition of water to our specifications/standards and knowing these customers are going to come online at least lets the utility be whole. Park Ridge residents already pay more for sewer and they would have the same water rates. There is no impact on the rate payers.

Carl questioned whether they would end up being stormwater customers too? Joel stated they would not because they are not in the City and don't fall within the MS4 stormwater permit boundary.

Paul questioned the difference between a consolidation agreement and annexation. We can't do this process through annexation because a village is equal to a city concerning annexation, so the two communities need to agree to consolidate. This would be a referendum for both communities.

Paul feels if the tax rate would end up staying lower than the City's, he doesn't believe a referendum would pass in the Village. Joel stated then things would stay as they are, no more infrastructure. Joel explained the Village residents, for several decades, have paid 25% more for wastewater. They also pay a little more for fire protection via their taxes than a City resident does. They contract out their snow removal as well. If you are looking at all the factors, mill rate isn't the only thing that contributes to the total cost of service in the City versus the Village. So it is closer than what it appears, plus the borrowing for the roads will put them on a quick increase in their mill rate.

Joel further explained if the Village wants to use the grants available for the later phases and that would require a consolidation agreement to be in place, then the installation of the infrastructure would benefit the City.

Paul stated he was not in favor of this at first but if the fire department is in need of this in order to provide better service to the Village, he can't argue that. He was unaware of the potential consolidation agreement. It sounds like in the next ten years, the village mill rate would increase which it would make it more likely that the residents might pass a referendum approving consolidation with the City. Joel stated he would like the City to be in the position to have seen good infrastructure replacement for a period of time at their expense rather than ours before any consolidation is considered.

Joel explained the sources of the grants and the percent of cost sharing.

**Motion** made by Mae Nachman, seconded by Carl Rasmussen to approve the amendment of Chapter 13 to allow extension of water mains in the Village of Park Ridge subject to the conditions that all infrastructure shall be built to City specifications; no more infrastructure beyond Phase 1 until a consolidation agreement is in place; residents adjacent to the water main that have non-conforming wells must connect immediately; no new wells may be constructed on properties adjacent to the water main; and all properties adjacent to the proposed main shall connect within 10 years.

***Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.***

**9. Directors Report - Joel Lemke**

Joel stated in regards to upcoming projects and the uncertainty of tariffs on the Canadian border, we might have to have a special meeting between now and next month in order to stay on the very sensitive timelines we are under with permits.

**10. Adjournment.**

**Motion** made by Ray Schmidt to adjourn the meeting.

***Ayes all. Nays none. Motion carried.***

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:42 P.M.**